Application No.: 10/528,984

## IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The specification as amended below with replacement paragraphs shows added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with <u>strikethrough</u>.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 67, line 15 as follows:

--As an amino acid used in the present invention, a  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  amino acid is preferred. Specific examples of such amino acids include glycine, (+)-alanine,  $\beta$ -alanine, (-)-asparagine, (+)-aspartic acid, (-)-cysteine, (+)-glutamic acid, (+)-glutamine, (-)-hydroxylysine, (-)-leucine, (+)-isoleucine, (+)-lysine, (-)-methionine, (-)-serine, (-)-threonine, (+)-valine, aminolactic aminobutyric acid, azaserine, alginine and ethionine.—

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 68, line 7 as follows:

--As a lactam used in the present invention, a  $C_2$ - $C_{20}$  lactam is preferred. Specific examples of such lactams include glycine anhydride,  $\beta$ -propiolactam,  $\alpha$ -pyrrolidone,  $\alpha$ -piperidone,  $\epsilon$ -caprolactam,  $\alpha$ -methyl-caprolactam,  $\alpha$ -methyl-caprolactam  $\beta$ -methyl-caprolactam,  $\gamma$ -methyl-caprolactam,  $\gamma$ -methyl-caprolactam,  $\gamma$ -methyl-caprolactam,  $\gamma$ -dimethyl-caprolactam,  $\gamma$ -ethyl-caprolactam,  $\gamma$ -isopropyl-caprolactam,  $\gamma$ -butyl-caprolactam,  $\gamma$ -hexacyclobenzyl-caprolactam,  $\alpha$ -enantholactam,  $\alpha$ -capryllactam, caprylolactam, laurolactam and a dimer of caprolactone.—

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Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 123, line 3 as follows:

--20 mg of a glycolic acid copolymer which has been dried at 80 °C under a pressure of  $1 \times 10^2$  Pa for 6 hours is weighed and, then, dissolved in 3 g of the above-mentioned eluent, followed by filtration using a filter having a mesh size of  $2 \, \underline{0.2} \, \mu m$ , thereby obtaining a sample solution.--

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Please amend Table 1 at page 258 as follows:

			Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5
	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)	cular weight (Mw)	123,000	186,000	182,000	167,000	179,000
	Content of glycolic aci	Content of glycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	83.97	88.97	93.97	88.97	88.97
	2	Туре	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	6-hydroxyhexanoic acid	3-hydroxybutylic acid
_	hydroxycarboxylic	Content (% by mole)	16.00	11.00	00.9	11.00	11.00
Results of		Average chain length	1.08	1.02	1.02	1.03	1.02
the analysis of the obtained	Content of diglycolic a by weight mole)	Content of diglycolic acid monomer units (% by weight mole)	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
copolymer	Polyol monomer	Туре	-	-	-	•	F
	units	Content (% by mole)		•	•	•	
	Polycarboxylic acid	Туре	•	•	=	•	-
	monomer units	Content (% by mole)	-	4	_	-	•
	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monon units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
	Degree of discoloration of copolymer	n of copolymer	28	29	29	. 29	28
	Degree of discoloration after the melt heat stability test	in after the melt heat	36	38	43	38	39
Results of	Oxygen gas permeabi	Oxygen gas permeability of the melt-shaped sheet (cc/m²-day-atm)	9.1	8.0	7.2	8.1	8.0
evaluation	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet	haped sheet	4	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more
	Biodegradability of the soil	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable

Note: "-" means "not detected".

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Please amend Table 2 at page 259 as follows:

			Comparative Example 1	Comparative Example 2	Comparative Example 3	Comparative Example 4
	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)	veight (Mw)	109,000	164,000	122,000	187,000
	Content of glycolic acid mor	Content of glycolic acid monomer unit (% by weight mole)	88.86	96.97	72.96	88.97
	Non-elycolic	Туре	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid
a managaran da man	hydroxycarboxylic acid	Content (% by mole)	11.01	3.00	27.01	11.00
:	monomer units	Average chain length	1.02	1.01	1.14	1.62
Results of the analysis	Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	onomer unit (% by mole)	0.13	0.03	0.03	0.03
of the obtained		Туре	<b>1</b>	1	-	-
copolymer	Polyol monomer units	Content (% by mole)	-	-	1	-
	Polycarboxylic acid	Туре	•		-	-
	monomer units	Content (% by mole)	1	ŧ	-	•
	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer ur polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monon mole)	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	0.13	0.03	0.03	0.03
	Degree of discoloration of copolymer	opolymer	34	33	33	29
	Degree of discoloration after the melt heat stability test	r the melt heat stability test	175	115	39	105
Results of	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped shee (cc/m²-day-atm)	a melt-shaped sheet	8.2	7.0	35.0	8.4
evaluation	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet	sheet	4	5 or more	. 4	5 or more
	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil	shaped sheet in soil	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable

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Note: "-" means "not detected".

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Please amend Table 3 at page 260 as follows:

			Example 6	Example 7	Example 8	Example 9	6	Example 10	le 10
	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)	ar weight (Mw)	187,000	187,000	325,000	330,000		163,000	000
	Content of glycolic acid I	Content of glycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	88.94	88.94	88.98	88.94		88.97	21
	Non-glycolic,	Туре	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	70	Lactic acid	acid
	hydroxycarboxylic acid	Content (% by mole)	10.99	10.99	10.98	10.98		10.94	4
	monomer units	Average chain length	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01		1.01	1
Results of	Content of diglycolic acid	Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03		0.04	4
the analysis of the	Polvol monomer units	Туре	Neopentyl glycol	1,6- hexanediol	Trimethytolprop ane	Neopentyl Trin glycol	Trimethylotpr	Neopentyl glycol	Trimethylolpr opane
obtained copolymer	•	Content (% by mole)	0.04	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.01	0.04	0.01
	Polycarboxylic acid	Туре	ı	ŧ	•	1			
	monomer units	Content (% by mole)	ı	1		,		•	
	Total content of polycarb polyol monomer units ar mole)	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	0.07	0.07	0.04	0.08		0.09	6
	Degree of discoloration of copolymer	of copolymer	29	33	34	33		39	:
	Degree of discoloration	Degree of discoloration after the meld melt heat stability test	39	43	44	. 44		48	
Results of	Oxygen gas permeabilit (cc/m²-day-atm)	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet (cc/m²-day-atm)	8.3	8.2	8.3	8.6		8.7	
evaluation	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet	ped sheet	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	•	5 or more	ore
	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil	nelt-shaped sheet in soil	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	ple	Biodegradable	ıdable

Note: "-" means "not detected".

Please amend Table 4 at page 261 as follows:

			Example 11	Example 12	Example 13	Example 14	Example 15	Comparativ e Example 5
	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)	ular weight (Mw)	186,000	185,000	189,000	280,000	189,000	165,000
	Content of glycolic ack	Content of glycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	88.96	88.96	88.63	88.62	88.25	93.95
	Non-alvcolic.	Туре	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid
	hydroxycarboxylic	Content (% by mole)	10.96	10.96	9.57	9.56	7.93	4.21
	acid monomer units	Average chain length	1.01	1.01	1.05	1.01	1.05	1.02
Results of the analysis	Content of diglycolic a	Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	0.04	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
of the obtained	Polyol monomer	Туре	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentyl glycol	Neopenty/ Trimethylolprop glycol ane	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentył głycol
copolymer	units	Content (% by mole)	0.04	0.04	0.90	0.90	1.91	0.92
	Polycarboxylic acid	Туре	1	Oxalic acid	Adipic acid	Adipic acid	Adipic acid	Adipic acid
	monomer units	Content (% by mole)	-	0.01	28.0	0.88	1.88	0.89
***	Total content of Polyce monomer units and dig	Total content of Polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	0.08	0.08	1.80	1.82	3.82	1.84
	Degree of discoloration of copolymer	n of copolymer	29	28	30	33	30	34
	Degree of discoloration	Degree of discoloration after the meld melt heat stability test	40	39	39	42	38	110
Results of	Oxygen gas permeabil (cc/m <sup>2</sup> ·day·atm)	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet (cc/m²-day-atm)	8.5	8.5	8.8	9.2	12.0	8.3
evaluation	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet	naped sheet	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more
·	Biodegradability of the	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil	Biodegradabl e	Biodegradabl e	Biodegradabl e	Biodegradable	Biodegrada ble	Biodegrada ble

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Note: "-" means "not detected".

Please amend Table 5 at page 262 as follows:

			Example 16	Example 17	Example 18	Example 19	Example 20
	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)	reight (Mw)	178,000	148,000	132,000	152,000	93,000
	Content of glycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	nomer unit (% by mole)	88.98	88.93	88.91	88.92	88.98
	Non-glycolic,	Туре	Lactic acid				
	hydroxycarboxylic acid	Content (% by mole)	11.00	11.01	11.01	11.01	11.00
	monomer units	Average chain length	1.02	1.05	1.02	1.02	1.02
Results of	Content of diglycolic acid monomer u	onomer unit (% by mole)	0.05	90.0	0.08	0.07	0.02
the analysis of the		Туре	•	•	•	-	•
obtained	royol monomer units	Content (% by mole)	•	-	-	•	,
	Polycarboxylic acid	Туре	-		•	-	1
	monomer units	Content (% by mole)	•	-	•	•	t
	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	lic acid monomer units nits and diglycolic acid	0.02	90:0	0.08	20.0	0.02
	Degree of discoloration of copolymer	poolymer	28	28	28	28	27
	Degree of discoloration after the meld melt heat stability test	r the <del>mold <u>melt</u> heat stability</del>	39	44	48	46	38
Results of	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet (cc/m²-day-atm)	a melt-shaped sheet	8.1	8.1	8.0	8.0	8.1
evaluation	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet	sheet	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	4
	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil	shaped sheet in soil	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable

Note: "-" means "not detected".

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Please amend Table 6 at page 263 as follows:

	A THE TAX AND A STATE OF THE TAX AND A STATE		Comparative	Comparative	Comparative	Comparative	Comparative	Comparative
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	Weight average molecular weight (Mw)	(Mw)	186,000	179,000	184,000	109,000	175,000	183,000
	Content of glycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	unit (% by mole)	88.59	88.58	88.62	88.84	94.00	83.00
		Туре	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid	Lactic acid
	Non-glycolic, hydroxycarboxylic acid monomer units	Content (% by mole)	11.00	11.00	11.00	11.02	6.00	17.00
		Average chain length	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	2.08	2.36
Results of	Content of diglycolic acid monomer unit (% by mole)	er unit (% by mole)	0.20	0.21	0.18	0.14	-	ı
of the obtained	Polyol monomer units	Туре	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentyl glycol	Neopentyl glycol		•	ı
copolymer		Content (% by mole)	0.21	0.21	0.20	•	•	•
	Polycarboxylic acid monomer	Туре	-	•	•	•	•	•
	units	Content (% by mole)	•	•	•	3	•	•
	Total content of polycarboxylic acid monomer units including polyol monomer units and diglycolic acid monomer units (% by mole)	id monomer units nd diglycolic acid	0.41	0.42	0.38	0.14	,	1
	Degree of discoloration of copolymer	ner	40	39	37	38	30	29
	Degree of discoloration after the <del>mold <u>melt</u> heat stability</del> test	<del>nold <u>melt</u> heat stability</del>	224	242	196	158	92	58
Results of	Oxygen gas permeability of a melt-shaped sheet $(cc/m^2 \cdot day \cdot atm)$	It-shaped sheet	8.7	8.8	8.8	8.3	8.8	28.0
evaluation	Strength of the melt-shaped sheet	•	5 or more	5 or more	5 or more	4	5 or more	5 or more
	Biodegradability of the melt-shaped sheet in soil	ed sheet in soil	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable	Biodegradable

Note: "-" means "not detected".